

EPA Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Suggested FY 2022 Planning Topics

1. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), Bear Creek Valley:

The public comment period has officially ended but issues remain regarding the landfill location, the position of groundwater beneath the proposed landfill site, the necessity to waive legal requirements for certain types of hazardous materials (e.g., polychlorinated biphenyls - PCBs), and determine the protective levels of radiological discharge allowed from the EMWDF and planned EMDF. The SSAB and public should stay engaged with the ongoing issues and follow-up meetings as this project moves forward toward approval of the Federal Facility Agreement EMDF Record of Decision.

Timeframe: 1st Quarter FY 2022

2. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation Northern Tributary 8 Non-Time Critical Removal Action Work Plan, Bear Creek Valley:

The DOE is currently working to develop a work plan to reduce uranium surface water discharge to Bear Creek near NT-8. Ongoing releases of high levels of uranium from the Bear Creek Burial Grounds have been reported since the 2016 Remedial Effectiveness Report. The SSAB and public should stay engaged with the ongoing work and sampling results following completion of this action to ensure the release of uranium into surface water is reduced to protective levels. An Environmental Evaluation/Cost Analysis is being undertaken and is planned to be submitted 9/30/2022. The SSAB should be evaluate the field activity and the resulting environmental information that will inform the Action Memorandum, that is currently planned for 2/20/2023.

Timeframe: 1st Quarter FY 2022

3. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation (DOE-ORR) Groundwater Projects:

A. **ETTP** - DOE-ORR will be submitting the D2 Remedial Investigation Work Plan for the K-31/K-33 Area at ETTP. The SSAB and public should stay informed as this work progresses because contaminated groundwater above Safe Drinking Water Act Maximum Contamination Levels (MCLs) across the K-31/K-33 area will not allow EPA/TDEC to accept the DOE-ORR NFA proposal. The investigation is complete and the Remedial Investigation report is due mid-November 2021.e

Timeframe: 1st Quarter FY 2022

B. **ETTP** - DOE is revising the D1 Focused Feasibility Study Report to discuss multiple technologies that could be used as interim actions at eight contaminated groundwater locations across the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Main Plant Area. The SSAB and public should be aware of the technologies reviewed, their limitations, and the potential for successful groundwater restoration across the ETTP Main Plant Area conveyed in this interim report. Note that the restoration of groundwater contamination by any technology will require additional investigation (e.g., the installation of shallow, intermediate, and deep groundwater wells), engineering controls (e.g., the remedial technology/technologies) and land use restrictions (e.g., barriers, fencing, etc.). The use

of engineering controls and land use restrictions will occur for many decades across portions of the ETTP.

Timeframe: 1st Quarter 2022

C. **ETTP** - DOE has submitted the D1 ETTP Zone1 Groundwater Plumes Remedial Investigation Work Plan to EPA. This work plan will investigate several specific sites of groundwater contamination across Zone 1. The SSAB and public should stay informed as this work progresses because contaminated groundwater plumes above MCLs across Zone 1 will require a good understanding of each contaminant plume. Restoration of groundwater contamination above MCLs will require remedial action or ARAR waiver.
Timeframe: 2nd Quarter FY 2022.

D. **Bethel Valley** - DOE-ORR has completed the installation of three deep groundwater monitoring wells near the terminus of Bethel Valley (Raccoon Creek) adjacent to the Clinch River. These wells will serve as “Sentinel” monitoring wells and will be used to detect any down-valley contaminated groundwater migration toward the Clinch River. No contamination is expected at these new wells and DOE-ORR will continue to defer any final decisions for groundwater investigation/remediation for Bethel Valley until 2037. The SSAB and public should stay informed because the first sample results should be shared with EPA.

Timeframe: 3rd Quarter FY2022.

E. **Bethel Valley** – EPA has approved the DOE Phased Groundwater Remedial Investigation Work Plan for the Bethel Valley Final Groundwater Record of Decision. The document will initiate the first of many phased remedial groundwater investigations that will support the development of a final groundwater Record of Decision currently planned for Fiscal Year 2037. The SSAB and the public should stay informed as the results of this first investigation are collected.

Timeframe: 1st Quarter FY 22

4. ETTP DOE - City of Oak Ridge Airport

The EPA is working with the DOE/CoOR project team to determine the steps necessary to complete all CERCLA/NCP FFA project work within the footprint of the proposed airport. EPA has completed a consultation with the EPA Region 4 PCB project team to determine what actions will be necessary to address PCB-contaminated sediments in the K-1007-P1 Pond. That information has been shared with TDEC and the DOE/CoOR project team. The SSAB and public should stay informed as this project moves forward especially as it relates to CERCLA documentation and public notice and meeting requirements (e.g., FFS, PP, ROD). In addition, the ORSSAB should evaluate the individual remedial action activities associated with the footprint as it relates to the remaining DOE infrastructure.

Timeframe: 2nd Quarter FY 2022

5. Lower East Fork Poplar Creek – Surface Water Contamination

DOE has previously conducted a stream cleanup and restoration action. DOE has identified more contamination in LEFPC than Upper East Fork Poplar Creek (UEFPC). Although the Mercury Treatment System will assist in reducing mercury discharged from Y-12 but may

not have as much impact on LEFPC, where higher levels of mercury exist compared to UEFPC. Although DOE is evaluating technologies none have been definitively identified as part of remediation. The ORSSAB should evaluate this area and potential technologies that can be applied to reduce the mercury contamination. This may require DOE to seek additional funding for application of remedial technologies to reduce further risk to human health and the environment.

Timeframe: 3rd Quarter FY 2022